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Ontario Women's Directorate

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ONTARIO MARKS SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION MONTH
Public discussion key to building safe communities

TORONTO – Public discussion about sexual violence is an important step in building communities that are safe, strong and livable, said Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues today, in recognizing May as Sexual Assault Prevention Month in Ontario. This year's theme is Sexual Violence—Let's Talk About It!

"The issue of sexual violence has long been shrouded in secrecy, but if we are going to deliver real, positive change for our sisters, mothers and daughters, we must talk about this social problem, and work together to come up with solutions," said Pupatello. "Sexual Assault Prevention Month supports our government's commitment to give Ontarians a higher quality of life."

The Ontario Women's Directorate website has several resources for young people aged 15 to 25 on sexual assault, including one called Let's Talk About It! It answers questions about sexual violence and gives information on how to spot warning signs that someone might be a victim and where to get help. The directorate has also developed a toolkit to help community-based organizations to promote Sexual Assault Prevention Month in their communities.

Recently, the McGuinty government announced its first steps in a four-year plan to reduce domestic violence in the province. Part of that plan is to launch a public education campaign targeted primarily at youth to foster healthy equitable relationships and change attitudes toward violence against women at an early age.

"By working together to raise awareness of sexual violence, we can build stronger, safer communities. We are committed to action and achieving real, positive change for women in Ontario."

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